



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

“Slow down and enjoy life. It's not only the scenery you miss by going too fast - you also miss the sense of where you are going and why.” ~ Eddie Cantor (1892 - 1964)

Friday, April 25, 2008

Students from DePauw University recently toured Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility and were given a brief overview of the Department's re-entry initiatives. Students were also allowed to ask questions of the residents.

The U.S. Chess Trust donated 8 tournament level chess sets to the Therapeutic Community at Westville Correctional Facility. The chess sets help the inmates understand the difference between long-term and short-term strategies of problem-solving.

Chain O'Lakes Correctional Facility conducted an Inside Out Dads graduation and picnic for 22 offenders and their families. A total of 61 family members and children were in attendance, and the fathers gave their children age-appropriate books.

Plainfield Correctional Facility hosted a religious program conducted by KAIROS. The program featured over 43 sponsors, volunteers, and staff, and 45 offenders participated. Group devotions, worship, and reflection time were included in the program.

In correspondence with National Victims' Rights Week, residents at Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility recently stuffed a total of 877 mailers that included a proclamation from the Governor. Packets were sent to law enforcement officials in Indiana.

Correctional Industrial Facility's building trades class completed the 2nd of 10 Habitat for Humanity house packages for 2008.

Handlers and canines from Putnamville Correctional Facility attended a K-9 Academy at Correctional Training Institute. The dogs and handlers took two of the three first place awards. The dogs and handlers also recently gave a demonstration at IPS School #2.

Gary Horton from the American Freedom Assembly spoke to the PLUS unit offenders and the Echo 15 cadets at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility on AMERICA (Attitude, Motivation, Enthusiasm, Respect, Integrity, Courage, and Aspiration).

Staff from the Indianapolis Parole office, Central Office, and Parole Board participated in a joint Level Pull meeting with Marion County Probation at the City-County Building. The meeting promoted successful re-entry by changing conditions in neighborhoods with high crime rates and facilitating an awareness and community support through an increased police presence.

KAIROS Prison Ministry held its fourth 4-day ministry program at the Indiana State Prison. Offenders from the 3 previous programs attended a closing ceremony, along with the volunteers, family, and church members from the KAIROS ministry.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a staff recall/general assembly, where administrative staff provided updates regarding their areas of responsibility, and staff recognition award were presented.

The recreation department at Rockville Correctional Facility recently sponsored a pie sale for offenders, and over \$700 was raised and donated to the Use What You've Got Prison Ministry. The ministry provides transportation for prison visitation.

PEN Products at Correctional Industrial Facility has built a total of 885 picnic tables for the Department of Natural Resources, which has requested 4,000 tables.

Miami Correctional Facility recently held its quarterly Community Advisory Board Meeting, where 12 people were in attendance. New superintendent Mark Sevier discussed plans to participate in speaking engagements to introduce him to the community.

The U.S. Department of Justice concluded a visit to Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility after a weeklong inspection of the facility's policies and procedures. Several staff were interviewed about their job duties and responsibilities.

“Marlin my Darlin” and “Speedy Recovery,” two Dark Bay fillies ages 3 and 4, recently arrived at Putnamville Correctional Facility. The fillies were donated to the facility for the Equine Management program by owner Bob Cook from Indianapolis.